

REMARKS

In the Office Action of October 19, 2004, claims 20-28 were allowed and claims 11, 13, 14, 16-18 and 31 were objected to. Claims 1-10, 12, 15, 19, 29, 30 and 32-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Miske (USP 6,163,199). Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

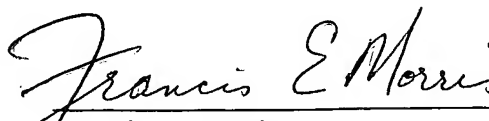
In response to this Office Action, claims 1-7, 30 and 31 have been cancelled. The limitations of claim 11 have been incorporated in claim 8, the limitations of claim 13 have been incorporated in claim 12, claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form, claim 19 has been made dependent on amended claim 12, and the limitations of claim 30 and 31 have been incorporated into claim 29.

With respect to claim 37, the Examiner appears to be misreading the claim. Transistor T5 is not the device that shorts the dedicated supply signal to the input/output supply signal and claim 37 does not say that it is. Claim 37 merely states that the dedicated supply signal is shorted to the input/output supply signal with the transmission switch is not conducting. While the Examiner is correct in assuming that transistor T5 is conducting when the transmission switch is not conducting, this simply has the effect of applying the signal VCC_DED to the node between transistors T1 and T2. As noted at page 8, lines 9-19 of the specification, the high voltage VCC_DED signal reverse biases the gate-to-source junction of T1 and ensures that transistor T1 remains off even if the voltage VREF at I/O terminal 105 drops below VSS during an undershoot condition and causes transistor T2 to turn on. As shown in Fig. 1, the voltage at I/O terminal 105 is VREF and not VCC_I/O.

In view of the forgoing remarks, the claims in this application are believe to be in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 for all required fees for this reply.

Date: January 19, 2005


Francis E. Morris 24,615
(Reg. No.)
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
101 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10178
(212) 309-6632